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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of :  
JAMES W. CREE, ET AL. :  
Serial No. : Group Art Unit 3735  
Filed May 4, 1999 : Examiner M. Polluta  
For ABSORBENT ARTICLE :  
HAVING FUSED LAYERS :  
Case 4546RC2D :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, in the first line of the first sentence, between "a" and "continuation", insert --  
division of Serial No. 09/127,212, filed July 31, 1998, which is a --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-5, add the following claims, and cancel Claim 1.

1. A sanitary napkin comprising:
- a liquid permeable top layer;
  - a liquid impermeable back layer;
  - a liquid absorbent core disposed between said top layer and said back layer;
- said top layer having a central zone and side zones at both sides of said central zone,  
said top layer including an upper layer of a thermoplastic synthetic resinous material